

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00131 011854Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 127352

P 011520Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHREIN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1831

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

S E C R E T MANAMA 0131

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY AND MASIRAH

REF : DOHA 115 ; ABU DHABI 232

1. FEBRUARY 1 I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER TO BRIEF HIM ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT AS I HAD EARLIER BRIEFED AMIR (MANAMA 122). HE MOST APPRECIATIVE AND EXPRESSED GOB'S FULL UNDERSTANDING COMPLEXITIES AND DELICACY PRESENT STAGE OF NEOGITATIONS AND FULL SUPPORT FOR KEY U.S. ROLE IN PEACE EFFORT. AS IS CUSTOMARY, HE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT URGENCY OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND ITS BEARING ON STABILITY IN GULF.

2. NOTING THAT AMIR IN OUR JANUARY 29 MEETING HAD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT ARAB REACTION TO US INTENTIONS IN POSSIBLE USE MASIRAH, I REITERATED POINTS I HAD STRESSED TO AMIR (STATE 16451) THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT LANDING RIGHTS NOT PERMANENT FACILITIES IN MASIRAH, THAT THIS IS RELATED TO U.S. INDIAN OCEAN NOT ARABIAN PENINSULA ACTIVITIES AND THAT WE ARE NOT SEEKING INVOLVEMENT IN DHOFAR HOSTILITIES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT WHILE GOB MIGHT UNDERSTAND

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MOTIVE AND LIMITS OUR INTEREST IN MASIRAH WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT ARAB PUBLIC OPINION, INCLUDING BAHRAINI, TO REFRAIN FROM LINKING MASIRAH STORY TO RUMORS OF US PLANS FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION IN OIL STATES. SPEAKING "PERSONALLY" HE SAID HE MOST DISTRESSED THAT USG IN THIS DELICATE TIME WOULD TAKE AN ACTION CREATING IMPRESSION, HOWEVER FALSE, IT SEEKING MILITARY FACILITIES IN ARAB WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN "WEAK AND UNSTABLE" LITTLE COUNTRY SUCH AS OMAN. AGAIN SPEAKING "PERSONALLY" HE ASKED IF US WOULD NEVER LEARN ITS LESSON FROM THE "BAGHDAD PACT."

4. COMMENT: GOB LEADERSHIP, AS IT TRIES TO FACE DOWN LOCAL AND ARAB WORLD CRITICS OF CONTINUED US NAVY PRESENCE, IS UNDERSTAK BLY UNEASY ABOUT CONTINUING SPECULATION U.S. MIGHT SOMEDAY CONSIDER USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN AREA. WHILE GOB HAS SO FAR SHOWED CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT IN ITS REACTION TO THIS "ISSUE", MASIRAH DEVELOPMENT APPEARS TO BE MAKING GOB, AND MOST DISTURBINGLY THE NORMALLY FAIRLY RELAXED AMIR, INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS. GOB'S CONSISTENT LINE HAS BEEN THAT IT DOES LITTLE GOOD FOR IT TO TRUST USG INTENTIONS IF ARAB OPINION GENERALLY DISTRUSTS THEM.

TWINAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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